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Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention

Eighth and ninth periodic reports that States parties were supposed to submit in 2015

Guatemala*

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AGEXPORT	Guatemala Exporters Association
ALIANMISAR	Alianza Nacional para la Prevención de Embarazos en Adolescentes y Jóvenes en Guatemala [National Alliance of Indigenous Women's Organizations for Reproductive Health]
ALM	Academia de Lenguas Mayas [Academy of Mayan Languages]
APEHGUA	Asociación de Pequeños Hoteleros de Guatemala [Association of Small Hotel Owners of Guatemala]
ASÍES	Asociación de Investigación y Estudios Sociales [Association for Research and Social Studies]
ATRAHDOM	Asociación de Trabajadoras del Hogar, a Domicilio y de Maquila [Association of Women Live-In Domestic and Maquila Industry Workers]
BANGUAT	Bank of Guatemala
CA	country agenda
CADER	Learning for Rural Development Centres
CADI	Centro de Atención y Desarrollo Infantil [Child Care and Integral Development Centre]
CAI	Centro de Atención Integral [Comprehensive Care Centre] (Secretariat of Social Welfare)
CAIMUS	Centres for Holistic Support of Women Survivors of Violence
CAMTUR	Chamber of Tourism
CCM	Comprehensive Care Model (MAI)
CCP	Code of Criminal Procedure
CEMUCAF	Programa de Centros Municipales de Capacitación y Formación Humana [Municipal Training Centres Programme]
CERIGUA	Centro de Reportes Informativos sobre Guatemala [news agency]
CICAM	Women's Research, Training and Support Centre
CICIG	International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG)
CNB	national basic curriculum
CNNA	National Commission for the Availability of Contraceptives
COCODES	Community Development Councils
CODEDES	Departmental Development Councils
CODISRA	Presidential Commission on Discrimination and Racism against Indigenous Peoples in Guatemala
CONALFA	National Literacy Committee
CONAP	National Council for Protected Areas
CONAPREVI	National Coordination Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women
CONJUVE	National Youth Council
CONRED	National Committee for Disaster Reduction
COPREDEH	Presidential Commission for Coordinating Executive Policy in the Field of Human Rights
COSME	Consortium of Social and Trade Union Organizations for Women in the Economy
CPGE	budget classifier of gender and ethnicity data

CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRG	Congress of the Republic of Guatemala
CSJ	Supreme Court of Justice
DASAV	Health Directorate Promotion Unit
DEMI	DEMI, Defensoría de la Mujer Indígena [Office for the Defence of Indigenous Women]
DGM	Directorate-General for Migration
DiGEBI	Directorate-General for Bilingual Education
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
DTP	Dirección Técnica del Presupuesto [Budget Office]
DV	domestic violence
DVAW	domestic violence against women
EA	executive agency (organismo ejecutivo, OE)
ECLA	Economic Commission for Latin America
ECPAT	Association for the Elimination of Child and Adolescent Prostitution, Pornography, Sex Tourism and Trafficking
ENCA	National School of Agriculture
ENCOVI	National Survey of Living Conditions
ENEI	National Employment and Income Survey
EU	European Union
FIV	Housing Trust Fund
FLACSO	Latin American Social Sciences Faculty (Guatemala office)
FONTIERRAS	Land Fund
FOPAVI	Housing Fund
FUNGUAT	Hotel Owners of Guatemala Foundation
GD	Government decision (Acuerdo gubernativo)
GEJ	Specific Cabinet of Youth
GEM	Specific Cabinet of Women
GGM	Guatemalan Women's Group
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HR	human rights
ICAT	Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons
ID	identity document
IDIES	Economic and Social Research Institute at Guatemala's San Carlos University
IDPP	Criminal Public Defence Institute
IEC	information, education and communication
IGEP	Institutionalization of the Gender and Ethnicity Perspective
IGSS	Guatemalan Social Security Institute
IGT	Labour Inspectorate of the Ministry of Labour
ILO	International Labour Organization
INACIF	National Institute of Forensic Sciences
INAP	National Institute of Public Administration
INE	National Institute of Statistics

INGUAT	Guatemalan Tourism Institute
INTECAP	Technical Institute for Training and Productivity
IUMUSAC	University Institute for Women at Guatemala's San Carlos University
LAUyESPF	Law on Universal and Equal Access to Family Planning Services
LeyVET	Law against Sexual Violence and the Smuggling and Trafficking of Persons
LPGIEE	General Budget of State Revenue and Expenditure Law
LPMS	Healthy Maternity Law
LPSEVI	Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Domestic Violence, Decree No. 97-1996.
LVSETP	Law against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons, Decree No. 9-2009
MA	ministerial agreement
MAGA	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food
MARN	Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEM	Ministry of Energy and Mines
MICIVI	Ministry of Communications, Infrastructure and Housing
MICUDE	Ministry of Culture and Sports
MIDES	Ministry of Social Development
MINDEF	Ministry of Defence
MINECO	Ministry of Economy
MINEDUC	Ministry of Public Education
MINFIN	Ministry of Finance
MINGOB	Ministry of the Interior (Gobernación)
MINTRAB	Ministry of Labour and Youth
MP	Public Prosecution Service (Ministerio Público)
MRE	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MSPAS	Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare
NA	childhood and adolescence
NGOs	non-governmental organizations
NNA	children and adolescents
NUFED	Family Education for Development Units
OCTEGP	Coordination Office for Gender and Ethnicity Statistics
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights
OMM	Municipal Women's Office
ONAM	National Office for Women's Affairs
ONSEC	National Civil Service Office
OSAR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Observatory
PAPED	Academic Programme for the Enhancement of Teachers' Skills
PC	Penal Code
PDER	Rural Areas Economic Development Programme
PDH	Public Prosecutor's Office for human rights cases

PEAC	adult education correspondence course
PEO	Equal Opportunities Plan 2008-2023
PEPS	Accelerated Primary Education Programme
PGN	Office of the Attorney General
PLANEA	National Plan to Prevent Pregnancies in Adolescents and Young Women in Guatemala
PLANOVI	National Plan for the Prevention and Eradication of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women, 2004-2014
PMH	National Human Mobility Care Centre to Prevent Pregnancies in Adolescents and Youth in Guatemala
PNC	National Civil Police
PND	National Development Plan
PNDRI	National Integral Rural Development Policy
PNE	National Employment Policy
PNE	National Employment Policy 2012-2020
PNPDIM	National Policy for the Advancement and Integral Development of Women
PNSR	National Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme
PRECAPI	Social Security Programme to Protect Domestic Worker
PROEDUSA	health promotion and education
PROPEVI	Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Domestic Violence
PyMR	healthy parenthood
REMUPAZ	Red de Mujeres por la Construcción de la Paz [Women for Peace Network]
RENAP	National Registry of Persons
REPREDEC	School retention and drop-out prevention programme [Refuerzo Escolar y Prevención De la Callejización]
RIOOD	Ibero-American Network of Agencies and Organizations against Discrimination
SAA	Secretariat for Agrarian Affairs
SAI	comprehensive care for victims system
SBS	Social Welfare Secretariat
SCSPR	President's Social Communication Secretariat
SDGs	sustainable development goals
SEGEPLAN	President's Planning and Programming Secretariat
SEN	National Statistics System
SEPREM	Presidential Secretariat for Women
SICOIN	Integrated Government Accounting System
SIGSA	Public Health Information Management System
SOSEP	First Lady's Social Work Secretariat
STDs	sexually transmitted diseases
SVET	Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons
TSE	Supreme Electoral Tribunal

TUP	university-trained midwife
UNAMG	National Union of Guatemalan Women
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICAP	Training Unit of the Public Prosecutor's Office
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
URL	Rafael Landivar University
USAC	San Carlos University
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAW	violence against women

Presentation

In keeping with the commitments it entered into when it ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the State of Guatemala has persisted with actions aimed at achieving respect for and the recognition, effective exercise, observance and enforcement of women's human rights. To that end, public policies for the advancement of women have been implemented and considerable efforts have been made to amend and adopt laws and strengthen institutions, with a view to guaranteeing the transition to equity and genuine equality between women and men, while heeding the cultural and linguistic diversity of the Guatemalan population.

The State of Guatemala is pleased to present the progress made in complying with and implementing CEDAW, documented in the combined eighth and ninth periodic report. In that connection, it is important to point out that various sectors were present and participated in preparation of the report covering two periods, as an exercise in democratic and inclusive consultation and dialogue.

Once the aforementioned document has been sent to the honourable Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, it will be disseminated among all those who took part in the collective work of preparing it and a supplementary report will be drawn up. Also worth stressing is that the political context in Guatemala required changes in the form and substance of the procedure carried out by the institution responsible for ordering the data.

The report focuses on significant actions taken to impact and promote the exercise of women's human rights in such a way as to strengthen the leadership of Guatemala's Maya, Garifuna, Xinka, and mestiza women in various spheres of political participation. It is worth mentioning, too, that an effort was made to acknowledge and attend to the demands of sectors that have historically been marginalized and excluded because of gender and ethnic origin. A concrete result of that effort, for instance, is the National Midwives of the Four Peoples of Guatemala Policy.

In addition, the current democratic transition government has stated, at home and abroad, that "justice must be done to women to meet one of the Millennium Development Goals, which is to promote gender equality and empower women. Very few women participate in decision-making in government institutions."

The State of Guatemala is proud to present this combined eighth and ninth periodic report, which documents progress made by the State and acknowledges the existence of ongoing challenges relating to the status and current situation of women, which are shaped by historical factors, such as poverty, discrimination, racism, patriarchy, and male chauvinism, which, along with other elements, such as place of residence, ethnic origin, marital status, and age, continue to impact opportunities and the full exercise of citizenship.

(*Signed*) Lourdes Xitumul Piox
Presidential Secretary for Women

Introduction

1. The document presented here responds to recommendations made to the State of Guatemala by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and constitutes the combined eighth and ninth periodic report for the 2009-2014 period.

2. To prepare it, the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM) established a coordinating committee in 2014 comprising the Presidential Commission for Coordinating Executive Policy in the Field of Human Rights (COPREDEH), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN-WOMEN, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and SEPREM, as a mechanism to coordinate and be responsible for systematizing the information needed to write the report.

3. This Committee's functions were to establish the process to be followed in drawing up the report and determine the specific methodology to be used in each institution.

4. As a result of that exercise, it was decided to work on the following, in addition to the report: (a) the formulation of a baseline, starting with the Committee's recommendations in respect of the seventh report; (b) efforts to institutionalize the methodology proposed by SEPREM and set forth in the seventh periodic report, with a view to adjusting it in line with current needs and in consultation with various social actors; and (c) inviting other civil society actors, some working in coordination with Government institutions and others promoting women's human rights. Calls went to: academic circles, intellectuals, non-governmental organizations, women's organizations in all 22 departments, the financial sector, the business sector, journalists and religious groups.

5. The training and information process chosen included all actors. The contents of the Convention were addressed and discussions held regarding each actor's social responsibility for incorporating CEDAW articles and recommendations in their work.

6. For the institutions taking part, in addition to the training and reflection process, specific tools were developed for responding to the recommendations addressed to them by virtue of their mandates. For other participants, guidelines were prepared to direct the conversations. Invitations to help prepare the report were widely distributed and in the end 345 people participated.

7. Each of the Convention's articles were analysed in preparing the report, which also incorporated recommendations made by the Committee to the State of Guatemala. In the light of instructions regarding the length and presentation of this report, which covers two periods, it focuses on the most important information, while leaving open the possibility of producing a supplementary report for the Committee.

Reply to the Committee's recommendations to the State of Guatemala

Articles 1, 2 and 3 of the Convention and recommendations

8. The State of Guatemala has amended laws and codes and issued new legislation and provisions aimed at eliminating discrimination against women.

9. Amendments to the Municipal Code. Decree No. 22-2010 adds article 95 bis, which establishes the Municipal Women's Office (OMM)[1] responsible for attending to specific needs of women in the municipality and to foster community leadership and economic, social and political participation for women. Article 96 ter of the Municipal Code defines the functions of OMM.

10. Decree No. 27-2010 of the Congress of the Republic repeals article 89.3 of Decree No. 106 "Law of the Head of Government Civil Code" [Tr. sic], punishments relating to marriage, divorce, and presumption of paternity. Amendments are made to articles 3, 99, 156, 158, and 222 of the Civil Code and article 229 of Decree No. 17-73 of the Criminal Code. One of the most notable amendments has to do with admitting deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) as biological evidence.

11. Government Decision No. 463-2013 amending GD 831-2000, Enabling Regulation for the Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Domestic Violence, established that the National Coordination Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women (CONAPREVI) will operate in coordination with the Ministry of the Interior (MINGOB), through the Office of the Third Vice-Minister in charge of Violence and Crime Prevention. It also expanded coverage by including the Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons (SVET) and the Office for the Defence of Indigenous Women (DEMI), which is being relaunched in view of the importance attached to it at the highest level of Government.

12. Congress is in the process of approving a decree establishing that the minimum age for marriage be 18 for men and women, with exceptions allowed at 16 years of age for well-founded reasons and a competent judge's order. It is worth underscoring that acceptance of de facto unions between minors will not be allowed.

13. However, article 173 and 173 bis of the Criminal Code, which characterizes the offences of sexual assault and rape, remains in effect with respect to the punishments of between 8 and 12 years of prison for those who have sexual relations with minors (under 14 years of age).

14. Through Decision (*Acuerdo*) No. 136-012, the Office of the President of the Judiciary and Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) established the Labour Management Directorate, charged with monitoring procedures put in place in the Labour and Social Insurance Courts to implement international agreements and treaties ratified by Guatemala and to avoid discrimination in the workplace.

15. Through Decision No. 31-2011, CSJ and the Judiciary established the First and Second Labour and Social Insurance Courts, which are responsible for implementing procedures to safeguard proper and prompt administration of justice. They are the courts charged with hearing first claims from workers who have no professional counselling and women's cases.

16. In 2011-2012, CSJ and the judiciary worked together to prepare and present the "Gender-Sensitive Justice" project at the XVII Ibero-American Judicial Summit, following up on the Declaration on Women's Access to Justice (Cancún, Mexico, 2002). The XVII Ibero-American Judicial Summit was held in Santiago, Chile, and unanimously adopted the "Judicial Procedures Protocol for Cases of Gender-based Violence against Women". This is an important tool for justice system operators throughout Ibero-America and one that affords better access to justice for women victims and survivors of violence.

[1] Municipal Women's Office

17. In September 2014, the National Commission for Monitoring and Supporting the Strengthening of Justice gave an official presentation of the Sectoral Policy for Inter-agency Coordination to Improve the Processing of Cases of Violence against Women in Guatemala's Justice System, in order to promote criminal justice institution-building in connection with cases involving violence against women, through coordinated actions aimed at optimizing service in the processing of such cases and in care for victims and at preventing discrimination and impunity. The policy includes a basic implementation plan.

18. In 2008, the Criminal Public Defence Institute (IDPP) devised the "Institutional Policy for Technical and Legal Counselling with an Intercultural, Indigenous Women and Gender Perspective". That policy has guided the provision of public legal counselling services in all the Institute's offices, especially offices for the Defence of Indigenous Peoples.

19. In 2012, the Public Prosecution Service (Ministerio Público – MP) signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) providing for drawing up a status report on Trafficking Persons for Sexual Exploitation in Guatemala, with a view to fostering exchange of information, monitoring of specific cases, and training.

20. In 2011-2012, in the framework of the Comprehensive Education on Sexuality and Violence Prevention Strategy, the Ministry of Public Education (MINEDUC) designed, wrote and validated the Protocol for the identification, handling and referral of cases of violence in the national education system: it was shared with 1,483 professionals in the system and bodies working in this field, including the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM), that have lent support to this process.. The topics analysed were: definition of different forms of violence and legal framework encompassing them and establishment of roadmaps for handling cases of violence.

21. Between 2010 and 2013, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MSPAS) began identifying cases of severe malnutrition in Guatemala's 29 health districts. It produced the Integral Health Care Protocol with an intercultural perspective for child maltreatment victims and provided training for health professionals in the 29 districts and in the paediatricians' network, aimed at standardizing comprehensive care: all of which became a continuing education tool for health teams serving the population. In 2013, the protocol was evaluated and a second version was distributed. The "Zero Hunger Pact" was signed on to in 2012, setting out a roadmap for a coordinated effort to combat chronic and severe malnutrition.

22. The Law for Healthy Maternity and its enabling regulation, Government Decision No. 65-2012, were approved in Decree No. 32-2010. They set out to: establish the legal framework for implementing mechanisms to improve the health and quality of life for women and new-born infants; promote human development by providing women with universal, timely and cost-free access to information and quality services with a gender and ethnic perspective before and during pregnancy, birth, and the postpartum period, in order to prevent and gradually eradicate maternal and neonatal mortality.

23. That law contained the following provisions: (a) it amended article 25 of the law taxing alcoholic beverages to read that "of the tax collected, at least 15 per cent shall be allocated to MSPAS programmes dealing with sexual and reproductive health, family planning and alcoholism, and of that percentage, 30 per cent shall be allocated to the purchase of contraceptive inputs, pursuant to

article 19 of Decree No. 87-2005"; (b) article 28 read: "failure to comply with the provisions of this Law shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of the Penal Code and special criminal laws"; (c) article 29, on penalties for common-law spouses reads: "the man cohabiting with the woman shall permit, promote and facilitate her having access to maternal and neonatal health care services. If he does not and that gives rise to consequences amounting to crimes, those crimes shall be prosecuted and punished in accordance with criminal law."

24. Article 21 of this Law requires mandatory and immediate reporting of maternal and neonatal deaths. Such occurrences must be recorded on a daily basis in the Health Information Management System (SIGSA). The regulations governing the System are to be found in Government Decision No. 65-2012. They apply to all health services at each of the three care levels provided by MSPAS. They are also binding for services provided by the Guatemala Social Security Institute (IGSS) and apply to its affiliates and beneficiaries, as well as to services provided by non-governmental organizations hired under the Coverage Expansion Programme and to private for-profit and non-profit institutions.

25. Maternal health was declared a matter of national urgency as a way of supporting and promoting actions to reduce maternal mortality and malnutrition, especially among vulnerable population groups, adolescents and young people, and the rural, indigenous and migrant population.

26. Through Government Decision No. 111-2013, the Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Domestic Violence (PROPEVI)[2] was attached to SEPREM, as a programme for advising on, coordinating and carrying out actions to prevent, treat and eradicate domestic violence.

Training programmes and courses on the Convention and its Protocol

27. In coordination with the Presidential Commission for Coordinating Executive Policy in the Field of Human Rights (COPREDEH) and the Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR), SEPREM has developed procedures for counselling and informing Government officials[3] about the international instruments signed and ratified by Guatemala, with particular emphasis on CEDAW. That has helped institutions to familiarize themselves with the Convention and adapt and incorporate it into training courses pursuant to their institutional mandate.

28. Between 2009 and 2014, Guatemala's School of Judicial Studies ran 25 basic legal training programmes for members of the judiciary and paralegals nationwide, as well as for the Comprehensive Care for Victims (SAI) teams. Some 52,372 people attended the courses, which addressed the following topics: gender mainstreaming; implementation of international human rights and justice administration standards; human trafficking; and analysis of laws and regulations relating to violence against women. (See annex 1, articles 1, 2 and 3; table 1.)

29. DEMI and IDPP assist with cases in the following languages: q'eqchi', kakchikel, k'iche', mam, poqomchi', achi, ixil, q'anjoba'l, tz'utujil, garífuna and chorti'. They engaged in continuous and mandatory awareness-raising and training activities for officials working in the Free Legal Counselling

[2] Domestic Violence Prevention Programme

[3] Further information is provided in the annex on the methodology used to prepare the report

Programme for Women Victims of Violence and Members of Their Families, on topics relating to women's human rights and special laws. They currently have trained Mayan interpreters working in 15 of 36 offices nationwide.

30. In 2009, IDPP published: (a) "A Conceptual Framework on Discrimination" to give public and private institutions a tool to analyse discrimination and train promoters in ways of combating this scourge, especially in public service; and (b) "Categorization of the Offence of Discrimination and Its Impact on Indigenous Peoples". It analysed the legal definition of discrimination contained in article 202 bis of the Criminal Code.

31. In 2012, IDPP and the Presidential Commission on Discrimination and Racism against Indigenous Peoples in Guatemala (CODISRA) signed an agreement on that form of discrimination and racism. Its purpose was to lay foundations for cooperation between the two institutions to enable each of them, in their own spheres of competence, to perform their functions better and promote efforts to provide comprehensive support for access to justice, especially in matters pertaining to the elimination of racism and racial discrimination in Guatemala. As a result of that agreement, a number of activities (especially diploma courses) have been undertaken with the participation of IDPP personnel.

32. In 2008-2010, with the support of OHCHR, DEMI and CODIRSA implemented the project entitled "Contributing to the eradication of racism and ethnic and gender discrimination, particularly against indigenous women", financed by the Federal Republic of Germany. It pursued two courses of action: (a) raising social awareness and helping to shift attitudes towards respect for cultural diversity by highlighting discrimination to which indigenous women are subjected; and (b) helping to strengthen mechanisms for preventing and punishing ethnic and gender discrimination. During that period, attorneys and notaries were hired, especially by DEMI, to steer, attend to and follow up on racial discrimination cases.

33. In that context, an awareness-raising and training programme was developed in 2010 geared to staff in the Ministries of Education and Health and in the judiciary, aimed at generating knowledge and developing conceptual, procedural, and attitudinal capacities and skills that might help bring about changes in the way Government officials behave when dealing with or taking decisions in the course of their duties regarding indigenous women and put an end to racist and discriminatory attitudes towards them.

34. As part of the Comprehensive Training Plan for Indigenous Women, in 2010 a course was introduced offering a diploma in "Rights and citizenship of indigenous women", with a view to strengthening the citizenship of indigenous women through a systematic process of education for the promotion and defence of their rights.

35. DEMI developed a technique for training indigenous women and men in women's human rights, with a view to it being used as a tool by its various units in training activities conducted in the regions and at its head office. That technique includes: (a) approaches to be taken into account during training; (b) a methodological strategy; and (c) training programme suggestions (short, not so short and long workshops, dialogues for education and learning, in-house chats and training activities, or study groups).

36. Through PROPEVI, SEPREM provided legal counselling in 230 domestic violence cases and support after they were referred to the Public Prosecution Service. It trained 34,667 students at 80 educational establishments of various

levels and 71 psychology undergraduates at the Pan American University in domestic violence prevention. Several of those students are currently serving as volunteers in the programme.

37. In 2013, SEPREM and the National Registry of Persons (RENAP) signed a memorandum of understanding on coordinating nationwide efforts to provide and register IDs[4] for women.

38. Administrative Sworn Statements have used those documents (with some supplementary data) so as to spare the population from having to spend money on private lawyers in order to comply with that requirement.

39. A protocol was also established that grants preferential treatment for older persons, pregnant women, women with infants, and the disabled.

40. RENAP has an area for filling in forms and for information, with assistants to help the illiterate, provide them with oral information, and take their fingerprints in lieu of signature.

41. In each RENAP office, it is a requirement for hiring that staff pertain to the linguistic community in that region and speak the language, in order to facilitate communication with the population and provide information regarding the institution to those who do not have a command of Spanish.

42. RENAP is implementing the "National Plan to End Under-registration", which has already produced two departments and 142 municipalities free from under-registration.

43. Some 46 RENAP units have been installed in public and private hospitals and social security offices, thereby safeguarding the right to identity, particularly that of women. As a result, out of a censused population of 1,403,530 women, 4,958 were found to be unregistered.

44. In 2012-2013, the USAID Violence Prevention Project (VPP) and SEPREM concluded an agreement to promote, in 11 prioritized departments, the signing of "Municipal Security with Equity Pacts". These are political and inter-agency agreements at the municipal level among a series of social actors, including civil society, private sector, Government institutions, commissions, municipalities and the general public, who commit to taking steps to prevent and address violence, especially violence against women. It began with a pilot project and expanded with the signing of 24 pacts in as many municipalities.

45. SEPREM has continued to work with all those signing on to a municipal security with equity pact, and 25 such pacts were signed in 2014, bringing the total to 49 pacts signed between 2012 and 2014, with 88 in the process of being finalized in coordination with Municipal Women's Offices (OMM) all over the country.

46. Given the important role played by OMM in rural areas, SEPREM counselled and assisted 251 OMM with preparation of 37 strategic plans, 11 midwives agreements, 9 municipal agendas, 40 municipal diagnostic assessments, 210 annual work plans, 56 job description manuals, 94 project outlines, 46 municipal policies, 46 projects, 32 rules of procedure and the monitoring of 100 annual workplans.

47. The President's Planning and Programming Secretariat (SEGEPLAN) put together an information strategy on women's rights, expanding on the notion of "discrimination against women" and disseminating it through news spots.

[4] Personal Identity Document

48. The Ministry of Agriculture (MAGA) is implementing the Institutional Policy for Gender Equality and 2013-2018 Strategic Framework and has formed a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture/Rural Women Bilateral Institutional Committee.[5]

49. As a national mechanism, SEPREM has focused on its own strengthening and on boosting gender units in various institutions, which in turn constitute gender mechanisms within their institutions.

50. It is through these units, join'ly with the lead team, that SEPREM provides technical and methodological advi e on gender mainstreaming to implement the National Policy for the Advancement and Integral Development of Women 2008-2023 (PNPDIM). It also provides information about the use of the Gender Issue Classifier tool for pinpointing budgetary allocations to women in institutional programmes, projects, and actions.

51. In 2012-2014, SEPREM advised on implementation of PNPDIM in 291 Government entities, including OMM, and provided information on this policy's areas of intervention to 642 women's organizations that channel their demand for services to Government institutions.

52. Budgetary appropriations for SEPREM itself are reported to come from both domestic sources and foreign donations. The domestic appropriation has gradually increased; only in 2012 was there a slight decline, due to internal regulations relating to the previous administration's budget execution percentage. The appropriation from domestic sources increased in 2013 and 2014. External funding declined steadily and significantly; in 2014, there were no external cooperation funds. (See annex 1, articles 1, 2 and 3, table 2.)

53. Between 2012 and 2014, SEPREM was supported by four international agencies (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID); Swedish Embassy; United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Guatemala; and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), which provided technical and financial assistance for institution-building and regional outreach. (See annex 1, articles 1, 2 and 3, table 3.)

54. With regard to the Evaluation Committee's recommendation to the State of Guatemala on strengthening the Law on Femicide and Other Forms of Violence against Women, the judiciary reported that in 2009-2014 it had established lower and final instance courts for femicide offences and other forms of violence against women in 11 of Guatemala's departments. Twenty-six courts specializing in femicide cases have been established.

55. The judiciary also created the Justice Centre for Femicide Offences and Other Forms of Violence against Women to complement the above-mentioned establishment of courts and tribunals, as it considered it necessary to provide comprehensive care for women victims of violence specifically. To that end it altered infrastructure to prevent re-victimization and direct contact with the aggressor. Judicial facilities were also rearranged to allow hearings using oral proceedings and the possibility of video conferences to avoid direct contact between aggressors and their victims.

56. The Justice Centre houses two ordinary courts, two sentencing criminal courts and a court of appeal for femicide cases and offences involving other forms of violence against women. In addition, it contains a Comprehensive Care

[5] A high-level body within MAGA where women give their opinions on and influence the Ministry's decisions on topics that concern them as rural women

Unit which provides appropriate support for the victim and makes arrangements with a number of institutions for medical, psychological or other care needs, as required by each case. The facilities have been designed so the victim and the aggressor enter the hearing room through different routes so as not to be confronted with one another before or after being heard by a judge. The Centre also has a Gesell Chamber. Altogether the area covered by the Centre's facilities measures 3,952 square metres.

57. The Oversight, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of judiciary bodies specializing in femicide offences and other forms of violence against women comprises 68 judges hearing cases covered by the Femicide Law. They make up 41 per cent of all judges and magistrates specializing in this field in Guatemala. (See annex 1, articles 1, 2 and 3, table 4 and figures 1 to 8.)

58. The judiciary's Secretariat for Women and Gender Analysis was established by Decision 69/2012 of the Office of the President of the Judiciary and Supreme Court of Justice to define and implement the judiciary's Institutional Policy on Gender Equity and the Advancement of Women's Human Rights, and to monitor compliance with that policy.

59. Since 2013, the judiciary has had an Indigenous Interpretation and Translation Centre to facilitate access to justice, especially for indigenous women and children, in their own language.

60. There is also a nationwide Network of Legal Interpreters and Translators covering the 22 Mayan languages.

61. For its part, the Public Prosecution Service (MP) has 17 Public Prosecutor's Offices for Women nationwide, 14 of which operate under the Comprehensive Care Model, which provides appropriate services depending on each case and victim: trauma care; first aid; administering of the Emergency Kit for sexual offences, which includes antiretroviral and contraceptive medicines for rape cases; psychological care; and social work.

62. As for dissemination of the final comments, in 2010, through COPREDEH, the State of Guatemala established the National System to Follow-Up on Recommendations Made to the State of Guatemala by United Nations Supervisory Bodies.

63. The International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was ratified through Decree No. 59-2008 and entered into force in April 2009.

64. Despite progress made with legislation on behalf of women, that legal framework still has to be widely disseminated so that women can be empowered and have a basis on which to demand compliance with those laws. For that to happen, the justice system needs to be strengthened financially so that specialized coverage can be expanded geographically to attend to women's demands that the law be enforced nationwide.

65. With respect to compliance with international commitments, Congress needs to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Article 4. Temporary special measures aimed at equality between women and men

66. A political temporary special measure in favour of women at the highest level of the executive was the creation of the Specific Cabinet of Women (GEM)

to establish in institutional settings political and financial commitment to mainstreaming the gender and ethnicity approach, with the technical and methodological advice of SEPREM.

67. Another affirmative action promoted by SEPREM is the Gender-sensitive Budget Classifier, which was institutionalized by Decree No. 13-2013, which amended Decree No. 101-97 "The Budget Law" and added article 17 quater. *Budget Execution of the Thematic Classifier*. Through the Budget Directorate (DTP), the Ministry of Finance (MINFIN) needs to include the following thematic classifiers in the Integrated Government Accounting System (SICOIN): gender, indigenous peoples, security and justice, education, reduction of malnutrition, water resources and sanitation, children and youth, and any others established in the law's enabling regulation. The officials responsible for budget execution in institutions bound by the budget law must report to the Ministry of Finance on the budget categories referred to in the foregoing paragraph. Through DTP, the Ministry will provide Congress every four months with reports on execution of the resources assigned to those budget categories. Government Decision No. 540-2013 contains implementing regulations for the Budget Law.

68. Pursuant to its mandate, SEPREM advises and trains public planning and budget departments in the use of the Gender-sensitive Budget Classifier during formulation of the annual institutional workplan.

69. Since 2008, SEPREM has had agreements with the National Statistics Institute (INE) aimed at promoting the incorporation, via the National Statistics System (SEN),[6] of the variables showing the situation, status and position of women in the production of official statistics compiled by INE. That enables both institutions to generate a range of products and/or services in accordance with their institutional mandates.

70. One such agreement established the OCTEGP[7] with the support of SEPREM, INE and UNFPA. That Office has a Coordinating Council comprised of SEPREM, DEMI, CODISRA and SEGEPLAN and its objective is "to coordinate between the units in the SEN generating and/or analysing statistics".[8]

71. One affirmative action in this context is the publication entitled "Gender Indicators in 2013", as a reference tool for PNPDIM purposes. Certain variables, especially on violence and employment, were then added to those indicators.

72. Work is currently being done within SEN, coordinated by INE, on the fundamentals for a National System of Information on Violence against Women.

73. INE developed gender indicators and analysed them jointly with SEPREM. The findings were officially published in 2013, in the publication entitled "Guatemala: Gender Indicators". They are updated in SEN, based on the sources of information generated by INE. In 2014, INE prepared gender ethnicity profiles, which were reviewed by SEPREM.

74. Technical advice provided by SEPREM for measuring unremunerated work in households, through an application made to ECLAC, resulted in: (a) preparation of the Satellite Account for Unremunerated Work in Guatemalan households in 2011 and 2014; and (b) a time-use module in an employment and income survey.

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[6] National Statistics System

[7] Coordination Office for Gender and Ethnicity Statistics

[8] National Statistics System

75. As a temporary measure, through the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), the Guatemalan State ran training programmes to foster extracurricular vocational education opportunities for women and girls.

76. The Directorate-General for Bilingual Education is implementing a primary education programme for over-age children. Between 2009 and 2013, 316,068 people, including 179,773 women, took the course.

77. Title IV of Decree No. 9-2009, Law on Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons, addresses "punishments for the offences of sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking in persons" in articles 20 to 57, introduces amendments and repeals part of the legal framework, including the Civil Code, the Criminal Code and related laws approved by Congress. Most of the changes increase sentences and modify legal definitions of sexual offences, many of which were considered deficient prior to the passing of this law. INE needs to be strengthened technically and financially if it is to conduct a national census of the population with a gender and ethnicity perspective and other actions needed to compile official statistics. Furthermore, indicators need to be systematically and reliably generated for monitoring advances or setbacks with respect to the situation, status and position of women.

Article 5. Modification of sociocultural patterns and a proper understanding of maternity in the family

78. Within the gender equality framework for modifying traditional patterns of behaviour in Guatemalan society, the Ministry of Economy (MINECO) implemented: (a) the "Rural Women Entrepreneurs" project to facilitate the inclusion of women in Guatemala's economic development. This programme seeks to create business management capabilities that enable women to overcome the divides traditionally excluding them from opportunities to access new markets, financial services, technical assistance and training and thereby enhance their economic and social development;[9] (b) training processes in development, technical assistance and corporate management in order to reinforce the productivity and competitiveness of businesswomen and female entrepreneurs in the MSE sector through various forms of skills-building and training, with a participatory approach, as a guideline for mainstreaming gender equity in each area addressed. In the past six years, 22,822 women have taken part, with equal access to business development services.

79. Convened by the Vice-President, the Economic Cabinet, using the authority vested in it by Article 191.G of the Constitution to coordinate the work of the ministers to determine the country's economic policies and take decisions in accordance with the recommendations of the Monetary Board, the Bank of Guatemala, and the Ministry of Economy itself, approved the Formal Sector Employment Strategy focusing on adolescents, youth and women.

80. The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MSPAS) prioritizes all women's access to high-quality, warm and culturally sensitive health care, providing maternity care for pregnant women of diverse ethnic origin, age and geographic locations. To that end, it prepared the 2010-2015 Plan of Action to Reduce Maternal and Neonatal Mortality and Improve Reproductive Health. The strategies pursued under that Plan include: (a) strengthening skill sets and keeping human resources up to date and applying evidence-based medical practices at all levels of maternal and neonatal care; (b) guaranteeing and

[9] Currently this programme has 410 women entrepreneurs.

monitoring compliance with evidence-based medical practices with a gender and intercultural approach, in accordance with national laws and regulations; (c) boosting the logistics of providing equipment, medicine, materials and inputs for the first three levels of health care, with a gender sensitive and intercultural approach; (d) promoting access to family planning methods; (e) strengthening the referral and counter-referral system; and (f) reinforcing the responsible parenthood network, through the National Reproductive Health Programme aimed at promoting: (i) sexual and reproductive rights, (ii) responsible parenthood and (iii) sexual and reproductive health with a gender approach. All of this will be accomplished through education, training, sensitization, workshops, diploma courses, conferences, forums, community assemblies, health awareness walks, health fairs, and so on.

81. Formulation of the National Midwives of the Four Peoples of Guatemala Policy began in 2009, within the framework of the Healthy Maternity Law, Decree No. 32-2010. This policy is geared to acknowledging the population's practices and contributions, particularly in the area of healthy maternity. Thus, out of respect for the assistance provided by midwives, the policy recognizes assistance with vertical natural birth, regulated in a health-care protocol, and the use of medicinal drinks before, during, and after delivery. The Ministry trained 23,321 midwives in 29 health districts. That policy was approved in 2015.

82. The "1,000-day Window of Opportunity" was promoted and implemented in 2012 and included in the Zero Hunger Pact, targeting children under 2 years of age, pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, and women of child-bearing age. The idea behind this programme is to take advantage of the 1,000 days of physical and mental development opportunity, starting at conception and continuing through the child's first two years.

83. In 2012, as part of its Violence Prevention and Citizenship-Building Strategy, the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) designed and implemented its "Model for Violence Prevention and Living Together in Harmony in the Classroom and School". In developing the Model, the Ministry consulted representatives of General Directorates, institutions and partner organizations, who made a number of conceptual and methodological contributions to the proposal. That model was then disseminated and there were discussions regarding: (a) classifications of types of violence and the legal bases for those typologies; and (b) roadmaps to follow in cases of violence. Some 1,483 professionals from Departmental Directorates of Education (DIDEDUC) took part in the analyses.

84. In 2014, in connection with the strategic objective of "Helping Teachers to Implement the National Basic Curriculum (CNB)", a pilot project was started, entitled "Model for Institutionalizing Comprehensive Education in Sexuality and Violence Prevention in Educational Establishments". One of the achievements of CNB was the dissemination, official adoption and publication of this project for middle school. CNB has subject matters that provide continuity to the civic education taught in primary school and to the elimination of stereotypes in social sciences and civic education. The curriculum is largely geared to making equity in education a hands-on experience for educators and students alike.

85. For all levels of education, CNB is strongly focused on and rooted in human rights, as can be seen not just in its 15 framework subject-matters, but also in each subject area and sub-area of the curriculum.

86. The policies pursued in the current curriculum are aimed at enhancing equity. They address the principles of: (a) equity; (b) relevance; (c) sustainability; (d) participation and social commitment; and (e) pluralism; their characteristics, namely being: (i) flexible; (ii) perfectible; (iii) participatory; and (iv) comprehensive; and the spheres in which they are realized: national, regional and local.

87. MINEDUC distributed notebooks entitled "*Hagamos un viaje por el mundo de mis derechos*" [Let us travel through the world of my rights] and copies of "*Fortaleciendo el liderazgo de las niñas mayas, xinkas, garífunas y ladinas*" [Strengthening leadership among Mayan, Xinka, Garifuna and Ladina girls]. It also issued texts entitled *denominados "Si aprendemos conjuntamente y en las mismas condiciones tendremos mejor vida"* [If we learn together and in the same conditions we will have a better life] in the mam and k'iche' languages.

88. The above-mentioned texts were printed in 2014 and distributed to parents in the departments of Guatemala, Huehuetenango and Alta Verapaz, with a view to boosting their participation in their girls' academic education and encouraging female students to assert their rights.

89. The "*Vivamos mejor*" [Let's live better] booklet was written, in coordination with the National Literacy Committee (CONALFA) for the initial phase of literacy teaching.

90. The "*Nuestra Vida*" [Our Life] booklet, in Spanish, was authorized in 2011 for the initial phase of literacy teaching, and subsequently published in four Mayan languages. It reached 24 municipalities, 66 organized groups, and 1,309 youths and adults. Although educational texts and materials are available in four of the Mayan languages, that is not enough because they are not available in the other national languages of Guatemala. The national health system, too, needs to incorporate and adopt community practices relating to healthy maternity found in Guatemala's peoples, given that health maternity is a national priority.

Article 6. Trafficking and sexual exploitation of women

91. The State of Guatemala issued Decree No. 9-2009, "Law against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons", the VET[10] Law. The purpose of the Law is to prevent, suppress, punish and eliminate sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking in persons and to ensure that victims receive care and protection and are compensated for harm.

92. Title IV of this Law, entitled "Punishments for the offences of sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking in persons" supplements and amends articles 51, 107, 108, 150 bis, and 156 of the Criminal Code (Decree No. 17-73); amends article 151 on the passing on of sexually transmitted diseases; and amends article 173, which defines rape and increases punishments in the event of aggravating circumstance, such as when the victim is a minor under 14 years of age or volitionally or cognitively disabled, even when no physical or psychological violence is involved.

93. Pursuant to the VET Law, a roadmap for caring for pregnant girls and adolescents was implemented in 2012, with the participation of the Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons (SVET), the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES), the MSPAS and the Reproductive

[10] VET Law, short for Law against Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons

Health Observatory (OSAR). As envisaged in the corresponding memorandum of understanding, the aforementioned roadmap was issued as a poster.

94. As a result of the commitments undertaken by the State of Guatemala in connection with international legal instruments on the subject, through the SVET and in coordination with tourist industry associations, such as the Chamber of Tourism (CANTUR), the Hotel Owners of Guatemala Foundation (FUNGUAT), the Convention Bureau of Guatemala, the Association of Small Hotel Owners of Guatemala (APEHGUA) and international cooperation agencies, like the Association for the Elimination of Child and Adolescent Prostitution (ECPAT Guatemala) and UNICEF Guatemala, a national prevention and protection plan was drawn up against the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents in the travel and tourism sector.

95. The plan led to the setting up of the "National Prevention and Protection Round Table against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in the Travel and Tourism Sector". Its purpose is to develop a policy and instruments needed to implement it; ensure that individuals and legal entities in the tourism and travel sector abide by the Code of Conduct; and foster awareness campaigns nationwide.

96. A regulatory framework is in place: (a) the 2014-2024 Public Policy against Trafficking in Persons and for the Integral Protection of Victims; (b) the National Plan against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Guatemala; (c) the Protocol governing inter-agency coordination for protecting and caring for victims, which provides a framework and set of guidelines for all institutions on how to protect and treat victims of the crimes of sexual violence and trafficking in persons; (d) the inter-agency Protocol for the Repatriation of Victims of Trafficking; and (e) the Protocol governing inter-agency actions for responding immediately to cases of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents by tourists.

97. Given the paucity of centres specifically designed to shelter women victims of sexual violence, exploitation and human trafficking, "Temporary Specialized Shelters Programmes" were designed, implemented, coordinated and monitored with a view to providing comprehensive care to victims of violence and sexual offences. Three such centres specializing in handling cases of sexual violence and trafficking are currently being run by SVET.

98. Within that same framework, 23 departmental networks against sexual violence, exploitation, and trafficking in persons were implemented in 11 departments to develop guidelines, procedures, contents and activities for preventing and combating sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking in persons and raising awareness about them.

99. The National Committee for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) issued a Protocol for the Protection of Minors against Sexual Violence and Human Trafficking during emergencies and natural disasters.

100. There is also a National Awareness and Training Programme to Prevent Sexual Violence, Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons, which was implemented thanks to coordination among a series of institutions nationwide, benefiting 568 educational establishments, 121,623 pupils, and 1,628 teachers and school superintendents. It also reached 51 hospitals, providing training to 5,868 doctors, paramedics, and technical and administrative personnel

101. The awareness plan included the following: (a) dissemination of the VET Law, in two versions, one for an audience attending school and another for the

general public; (b) implementation of the "*No Permito*" (I don't allow) campaign; (c) publication of the educational video entitled "*Con los ojos abiertos*" [With open eyes], which sensitized more than 2,000 people; and (d) the preparation of specially designed and printed teaching materials entitled "*No me Dejo Engañar*" [I don't let myself be fooled].

102. In 2014, MINEDUC incorporated the subject of trafficking in persons in the curriculum and in official national education system programmes. In coordination with SVET, UNFPA and UNESCO, it provided training to 5,350 teachers through the "*Aprender a vivir*" [Learn to live] modules.

103. Towards the end of 2013, 20 clinics specializing in caring for victims of sexual violence were established in 16 departments nationwide, in the Roosevelt Hospital (2), the San Juan de Dios Hospital (3) and the regional hospitals in Escuintla, Cuilapa, Cobán, Huehuetenango, Quetzaltenango, Retalhuleu, Zacapa, El Quiché, El Petén, Jalapa, Salamá, Sololá, San Marcos, Sacatepéquez, and Izabal.

104. For its part, the Social Welfare Secretariat organized 20 training and prevention sex education workshops for children and adolescents and provided specialized therapy sessions for survivors of sexual abuse. It also provided training on trafficking in persons to a group of pregnant adolescents.

105. Under Government Decision No. 01-2012, the Public Prosecution Service (MP) established an Anti-Human Trafficking Division within the Public Prosecutor's Service and, also in 2012, the Attorney General and head of MP issued the regulations governing the structure and functions of that division. They established that the division would have four units: (a) against the sale of persons and unlawful adoptions; (b) against sexual exploitation; (c) against the exploitation of labour and other forms of human trafficking; and (d) comprehensive care.

106. The Office of the Vice-President of the Republic, the Judiciary, the Ministry of the Interior (MINGOB) and UNICEF signed a memorandum of understanding to boost efforts to combat trafficking in persons and enhance the technical capacities of the units within each institution to fight this crime.

107. The Public Prosecution Service (MP), the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) and UNICEF have signed a memorandum of understanding under which they have agreed to prepare a status report on the trafficking of persons for sexual exploitation in Guatemala, as a way of sharing information, monitoring specific cases, and providing training.

108. Through its training unit (UNICAP), and as part of its ongoing educational and training activities, MP organized 126 training sessions for 3,154 staff in the service, specifically to address the following issues: victimology, human rights, violence against women, maltreatment, and the protocol governing the treatment of victims.

109. The judiciary has organs specializing in femicide crimes and other forms of violence against women, namely 13 criminal courts of original jurisdiction, 6 of which hear cases involving sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking in persons. Twelve sentencing courts were also established, five of which hear cases involving sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking in persons. In addition, the courts handling femicide cases have a comprehensive care for victims system aimed at providing personalized care for each victim. In 2012, the records show that there were 2,338 victims of sexual violence, exploitation and human trafficking crimes. (See annex 1, articles 1, 2 and 3, figures 1-8 and annex 2, article 6, table 5.)

110. Despite progress made by the State of Guatemala, regional steps need to be taken within the Central American Integration System (SICA) to prevent sexual violence and human trafficking and other anomalies that thwart women's integral development, particularly in areas close to Guatemala's borders. Issues relating to violent crimes in general, sexual violence and trafficking in persons also need to be addressed in the curricula of universities and vocational training establishments.

Article 7. Appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination in Guatemalan political and public life

111. Through Decision No. 154-2010, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) authorized implementation of the project entitled "Promoting increased participation by women in the exercise of citizenship", which involved workshops to inform women of their rights and duties as citizens. Participants would then pass on the information to their communities.

112. An agreement was signed with AID, USAID and the TSE Local Governance Project, the results of which can be seen in voter registration records for the 2011 general elections, which show 7,340,841 persons registered as eligible to vote, 51 per cent of whom (3,736,169) were women, up 4 per cent compared to the 2007 elections. The agreement also resulted in the project entitled "Multiplier network to expand the impact and civic, political and electoral participation of women in the exercise of their citizenship". Notable outcomes of that project included: (a) the establishment of a women's network in each department and municipality; (b) the establishment of such a network headed by 63 women leaders in the departments in Guatemala's "dry corridor"; and (c) the participation of 1,586 informed and trained women running the coordination offices for the Multiplier Network.

113. In 2013, through Agreement No. 38-2013, TSE established the Department for the Political Advancement of Women, aimed at generating political and electoral civic education programmes on women's citizenship. Workshops were held for women's organizations and in educational establishments. A diploma course in gender and equity, with an emphasis on the inclusion of political organizations, was taught thanks to the support of San Carlos University's School of Political Science, for students in and outside the University.

114. Worth noting, too, is the TSE signing that year of a memorandum of understanding with the Junajil Women's Organization on running training workshops at the Youth Leadership School in the department of Izabal.

115. As for women in decision-making positions, the figures show very little participation by women in all institutions in the 2009-2012 period. In 14 ministries in 2012 the numbers of men and women were roughly equal. Of the 42 vice-ministers, only 12 were women. There were only three women Secretaries of State, compared to 17 men.

116. In the Public Prosecution Service (*Ministerio Público* (MP)), steps were taken in-house to eliminate gender discrimination, as evidenced by the hiring of 11,285 women between 2008 and 2014 to positions ranging from the highest (Attorney General) to technical staff positions. Staff received training on the implications of the principle of equality and respect for victims. (See annex 3, article 7, figure 9.)

117. The Supreme Court for the 2014-2019 term comprises 13 judges, elected by Congress, 5 of whom are women.

118. Most of the candidates for elective office are men, who therefore have an advantage. In 2011, a woman was appointed Vice-President of the Republic.

119. In 2013, in other social institutions, women numbered as follows: one on the Board of the Chamber of Commerce; one on the Advisory Council of the Guatemalan General Confederation of Workers; one in the Guatemalan-American Chamber of Commerce; two on the Board on the Association of Economists, Certified Public Accountants, and Business Administrators; one on the Board of the Association of Engineers; two in the Coordinating Office for NGOs and Cooperatives in Guatemala. The Political and Technical Commission for Women, Children and Adolescents was mostly comprised of women.

120. Despite actions taken and measures adopted, there is very little visible representation of educated Guatemalan women holding decision-making positions in either the foreign service or the international community. The number of women pursuing a diplomatic career needs to be increased for them to be on equal terms with men. For that, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINEX) needs to be strengthened in such a way that its foreign policy visibly embodies a gender and multicultural perspective.

Article 8. Measures to ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the opportunity to represent their Governments at the international level

121. As regards representation at the international level, the State has been implementing its 2012-2016 foreign policy and has begun taking steps to incorporate a gender perspective that also reflects the multi- and pluricultural nature of the country. Currently Guatemala has 38 representatives in embassies abroad. In 2014, six of them were women.

122. [Measures envisaged include] increasing women's presence in the foreign service on an equal basis and strengthening a gender-sensitive and multicultural foreign policy in MINEX.

Article 9. Equal rights to retain, change or acquire nationality

123. The right to nationality and its protection are safeguarded under Title III, Chapter II of the Constitution, which states, in Article 339, that "no person who is Guatemalan by origin can be deprived of his or her nationality".

124. Mindful that nationality is a principle upheld under domestic law and that it must honour its obligations vis-à-vis other States and the commitments it has entered into through universal and regional international instruments, the State of Guatemala has regulated, in the Nationality Law (Decree No. 1613), the procedures to be followed for residents or stateless persons living in Guatemala who opt for Guatemalan nationality.

125. Article 45 of the Nationality Law (Decree No. 1613) provides that a Guatemalan woman married to a foreign national shall retain her nationality, unless she opts for that of her husband. She also retains it if she acquires the husband's nationality solely because foreign legislation so requires. She shall only be presumed to have adopted his nationality if she, jointly or separately, uses a passport corresponding to her husband's nationality. This presumption is automatic in the sense that it does not allow any evidence to the contrary. However, the presumption shall cease if she uses that passport solely to visit her

husband's country. This means that the woman can obtain dual nationality and apply it in accordance with her interests.

126. Article 79 of the aforementioned law establishes that the children of Guatemalans born outside the national territory, even if their Guatemalan nationality has not been determined, shall be granted permission to enter Guatemala or a permit shall be stamped in their parents' passport. A female foreign national who marries a Guatemalan outside the Republic and for that reason loses her nationality shall be granted the aforementioned permit, for which a statement by her shall suffice.

Article 10. Measures to achieve equality with men in education

127. The Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) has eight educational policies: five general policies to address the basic dimensions of educational reform in the classroom and three cross-cutting policies intended to lend comprehensive support to that reform effort, including mechanisms to assist low-income families with food programmes for the children as a way of helping them to improve their performance at school and keep them enrolled.

128. As regards measures taken to guarantee a cost-free education, Government Decision No. 226-2008 and Ministerial Decision No. 381-2010 ban public educational establishments at the pre-primary, primary and middle school levels from charging for and selling uniforms, textbooks and other materials. To enforce those rulings, departmental free education delegates were appointed to look into any complaints and return any unauthorized payments.

129. For the period between 2011 and 2013, MINEDUC reports a dropout rate of between 5 per cent and 6 per cent. For girls in public schools at the basic education level, the dropout rate fell from 7.47 per cent in 2011 to 6.97 per cent in 2013. In the second phase of middle school (*nivel diversificado*), the dropout rate declined in the same period from 5.05 per cent to 3.41 per cent. (See annex 4, article 10, table 6.)

130. MINEDUC is implementing 13 programmes to lower the dropout rate in secondary education and among girls, namely: (a) school feeding; (b) school materials; (c) cost-free education; (d) food grants; (e) study grants; (f) scholarships to award excellence;[11] (g) conditional cash transfers;[12] (h) subsidized school bus fares; (i) grants for students with disabilities; (j) teacher hiring programmes; (k) provision of materials and teaching aids; and (l) awareness and dissemination programmes among members of the educational community.

131. Between 2009 and 2014, MINEDUC awarded 81,381 study grants and 10,553 food grants to pupils of both sexes at the middle school (basic and "diversified") level nationwide.

132. In 2010, MINEDUC introduced distance education at the basic level of formal secondary education for pupils living in rural and indigenous communities, reaching 92,770 students in Guatemala's 22 departments. It also ran adult education correspondence course programmes and family education for development units providing both academic and technical professional career planning programmes. Guatemala also has municipal skills-building and human education centres; a fast-track primary education programme; and educational

[11] The programme ended in 2012.

[12] They were transferred until 2011, when MIDES took over the programme.

radio programmes, which are non-conventional programmes providing access to educational services to rural and over-age population groups.

133. In 2012, a strategy was unveiled as part of the teacher training programme, entitled "Strategy for achieving quality education for Guatemalan children and youth", which declared universal pre-primary education throughout Guatemala a national priority.

134. With a view to achieving the establishment and full exercise of citizenship in the educational process, in 2013 MINEDUC included in the national basic curriculum (CNB) the technical document laying out the foundations for equity, human rights, and the gender and ethnicity sensitive approach; the strategy for comprehensive education in sexuality and violence prevention, which has been in effect since 2010 and seeks to reinforce the promotion of human rights and implementation of the core cross-cutting contents of the CNB; and institutionalization of the national policy for the advancement and integral development of women (PNPDIM),[11] coinciding with the 2012-2016 strategic framework for education.

135. In order to adjust the CNB to the characteristics and needs of girls, adolescents and women of the different peoples in Guatemala, the authorities prepared "Curriculum implementation by peoples" documents, at the primary level for the Xinka and Garifuna peoples and at the primary and basic cycle of middle school levels for the Ladino and Mayan peoples.

136. To reinforce implementation of the CNB in the classroom and develop basic reading, writing and communication skills, as well as analytical skills and values among pre-primary schoolchildren aged 4 to 6, between 2012 and 2014 2,773,554 exercise books were handed out to 1,386,777 pupils. In addition, 9,996,892 schoolbooks, written in simple, clear and inclusive language, were handed out to 3,525,362 primary schoolchildren, nationwide. (See annex 4, article 10, table 7.)

137. The "*Saquilaj Be*" programme was launched in 2014, offering a full primary education as a strategy for preventing teenage pregnancy and giving children an opportunity to achieve integral development.[14] Primary school teachers were also given a manual entitled "*Mis derechos son importantes*" [My rights matter] and teaching materials relating to child labour and the rights of the child.

138. In coordination with San Carlos University (USAC), MINEDUC is implementing PAPED/D,[15] which is a university teacher training programme for teachers in active service, in 21 departments.[16] Its purpose is to raise teachers' academic qualifications and improve their performance at different levels and types of educational establishment. At the pre-primary and primary levels, the programme seeks to strengthen professional skills needed to ensure high quality education in the classroom and improve children's learning abilities. By October

[11] National policy for the advancement and integral development of women.

[14] Municipalities of Colotenango and Santiago Chimaltenango, in the department of Huehuetenango and the municipalities of San Andrés Xecul and Santa María Chiquimula, in the department of Totonicapán.

[15] Academic programme for the enhancement of teachers' skills.

[16] Izabal, Petén, Alta Verapaz, Baja Verapaz, San Marcos, Huehuetenango, Sololá, Quiché, Sacatepéquez, Chimaltenango, Quetzaltenango, Chiquimula, Escuintla, Santa Rosa, Jalapa, Jutiapa, Suchitepéquez, Retalhuleu, Zacapa, Petén and El Progreso.

2014, 421 intercultural bilingual pre-primary teachers had completed this training programme, along with 1,823 intercultural bilingual primary school teachers. Currently, 8,475 teachers are receiving professional training.

139. The MINEDUC educational equity programme printed and distributed 1,044 leadership guidelines for indigenous and rural area girls, with a gender and Mayan culture perspective, to first through sixth grade primary school teachers in three schools in each of the 58 municipalities prioritized under the educational equity programme.

140. The scholarship programme for students with disabilities in public schools seeks to ensure that such students have access to the national education system, remain enrolled and then graduate from the various levels, by providing them with an annual (1,000 quetzales) grant to cover expenses relating to their disability and allow them to carry on their education. (See annex 8, article 10, table 9.)

141. As regards higher education, according to USAC data, in 2005-2012, 57 per cent of all graduates were women, 43 per cent men. The women mainly choose social science and education oriented studies, while the men opt for courses in the "exact sciences". (See annex 4, article 10, figure 10.)

142. The National Literacy Committee, CONALFA, which runs literacy campaigns for persons over 15 years of age who have not had a chance to study, has included in its literacy campaign, curriculum subjects dealing with food security, peace, security, justice, gender equity, the reaffirmation of cultural values, and disaster prevention.

143. In 2009, CONALFA implemented the "*Yo, si puedo*" [Yes, I can] pilot scheme, reaching all 22 of Guatemala's departments by 2010. By the end of 2013, 60,389 people had benefited from the programme, 76 per cent of whom were women. Using the Cuban method, 106,940 Guatemalan women and men have learnt to read and write.

144. The ethnic origin aspect of literacy campaigns is obvious in the case of indigenous populations speaking languages other than Spanish. For those programmes, materials are available in 17 Mayan and Garífuna languages, since it is best to work in each participant's mother tongue.

145. CONALFA reported that, between 2010 and 2014, 24 municipalities were declared to be free from illiteracy in the internationally accepted sense of reaching a level at which less than 4 per cent of the population is illiterate (given that there are always segments of the population that, due to age, health or disability cannot take part in the educational process). (See annex 4, article 10, table 8.)

146. The indigenous people reached by CONALFA courses are made up of men and women over the age of 15. The indigenous population in Guatemala is estimated at 44 per cent of the total population. They enrich every department, municipality, village, hamlet, and remote location, with their costumes, languages and cultures. For the country as a whole, the literacy rate has increased to 85.54 per cent. Nationwide, the illiteracy rate stands at 14.46 per cent. For various institutional reasons, in recent years more emphasis has been placed on expanding literacy in the Spanish language.

147. The bilingual literacy teaching programme hired 50 literacy training group supervisors, who were assigned to the municipalities prioritized by the zero hunger pact.

148. In 2013, 292 agreements were signed with municipal mayors and more than 15 departmental development councils, paving the way for strategic partnerships that generate specific kinds of development processes. The agreements signed for an "AlfaSan" literacy teaching project are a case in point: they seek to eradicate malnutrition in municipalities by persuading mothers and their children to take part in systematic continuous education programmes.

149. Thanks to the programmes promoted by CONALFA, illiteracy indices have declined: by 5.02 per cent between 2009 and 2014.

150. The data for literacy teaching between 2009 and 2014 show the Ladina and Maya populations benefiting most. Of the 954,858 people reached by the programme, 711,147 (75 per cent) were women. (See annex 4, article 10, tables 9, 9a, 9b, 9c, 9d, and 9e.)

151. In 2010 and 2011, the "Our life" leaflets were adapted, prepared, printed and validated in the Spanish, Q'eqchi', Mam, K'iche' and Kaqchike languages in the departments of Alta Verapaz, Quiché, Totonicapán, Sololá, Chimaltenango, Guatemala and Jalapa, with the support of the Global Food Programme.

152. CONALFA organized a technical methodological workshop to approve the cross-cutting sexual and reproductive health education content of the "Our life" leaflet in Spanish, which was also produced in the Q'eqchi', Mam and K'iche' languages. Sexual and reproductive health education leaflets were also produced in the Q'anjob'al and Akateko languages.

153. In 2014, SEPREM gave CONALFA copies of the "Our Life" leaflets in Spanish to be used in 20 literacy teaching groups in the departments of de Alta Verapaz, Jalapa and Guatemala. That year, leaflets in Spanish were also delivered that included sexual and reproductive health education topics to be used in 2015 in literacy teaching programmes in the departments of Huehuetenango, Alta Verapaz and Quiché,.

154. The Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) was established by Decree No. 1-2012 as the lead agency for drafting, regulating and executing public policies aimed at improving the living standards of individuals and groups in poverty or extreme poverty. That same year, the Ministry embraced the scholarship programme, through Ministerial Decision No. 04-2012 (and amended versions thereof), which modified "*Mi beca segura*" [The scholarship I can rely on]. It is implemented via four separate scholarships: secondary education, higher education, first job[17] and craftsman.[18]

155. MSPAS issued Ministerial Decision No. 450-2014, which involves young people in promoting health, including sexual and reproductive health, and nutrition, so they can contribute to the populations in their communities, especially the women, as a form of civic/social service to their country, by inducing changes in behaviour through art, culture and sports.

156. The Social Welfare Secretariat (SBS), in conjunction with SEPREM and the National Institute of Public Administration (INAP), has run two diploma courses and seven workshops focusing mainly on the human rights of women,

[17] In the first four months of 2015, the programme benefited 522 young people (223 women and 299 men), spread over 10 departments and 25 municipalities, in different regions of the country.

[18] In the first four months of 2015, the programme reached 1,654 people, spread over 42 municipalities in 13 departments, 1,637 of whom were women and 17 men, at an executed budgetary cost of Q 2,332,000 as of April 2015.

children, adolescents and indigenous peoples, for 368 managers and technical and administrative staff of SBS, 281 of whom were women. It also provided training on the human rights of women and indigenous peoples for technical and administrative personnel of 10 municipalities[19] in 8 departments prioritized by the Specific Cabinet of Women (GEM). Of 317 participants, 240 were women.

157. Comprehensive Care Centres (CAI)[20] likewise provide education, food and care every day to Ladino, Mayan, Xinka and Garífuna children: 2,445 girls and 2,403 boys. In the Northeast and Southwest of the country, and in the metropolitan area, the centres have 188 MINEDUC teachers working just the morning shift.

158. The benefits for parents of low-income families include: daily, cost-free care for their children, who receive four meals a day, early childhood education (approved by MINEDUC) for children aged 8 months to 3 years, extra help with schoolwork, and, for children aged 7 to 12, the benefits of the school retention and drop-out prevention programme (REPREDEC). In 19 departments, the children also benefit from the Ministry of Sport and Culture's standing recreation programmes.

159. Child Care and Integral Development Centres (CADI) operate as day care nursery and centres for children from birth through 7 years of age, each one of them providing early stimulation to more than 30 children from low-income families. Working with MINEDUC, they provide early childhood and pre-primary education, a balanced diet served in four meals a day, recreation, and training in values and preventive health. There are 232 CADI in 224 municipalities. They form part of the community homes programme promoted by the First Lady's Social Work Secretariat, with the support of the municipalities that benefit from the programme.

160. Despite progress made in Guatemala with out of school education, CONALFA faces limitations with its literacy teaching coverage, especially when it comes to printing textbooks and other educational and culture sensitive materials, due to lack of financial resources. Even though MINEDUC is financially stretched to achieve nationwide coverage and, in particular, to retain children and adolescents in the educational system, it is supposed to promote the study of science and provide intercultural bilingual education.

161. Other tasks include providing facilities for disabled children and adolescents to participate in the educational system, along with the infrastructure and working tools needed for that to come about, and encouraging the use of information and communication technologies (ITCs) in the national education system.

Article 11. Measures to achieve equality in employment

162. In 2012, the State of Guatemala produced its national employment policy[21] entitled "Generating safe, decent and high-quality jobs 2012-2021", based on seven strategies: (a) ensuring companies comply with labour laws; (b) adding 47,000 new jobs each year and raising productivity of the workforce; (c) providing incentives for domestic and foreign investment; (d) enhancing the quality, efficiency and

[19] Zacapa, Huehuetenango, Jutiapa, Chiquimula, San Marcos San Pedro Sacatepéquez, San Juan, Palencia, Villa Canales and Amatitlán

[20] Comprehensive Care Centre of the Social Welfare Secretariat

[21] National employment policy, developed by MINTRAB and MINECO

pioneering nature of national output; (e) providing legal certainty; (f) ensuring that labour laws remain up to date; (g) developing preparedness to withstand recurrent crises. A labour cabinet was also created, including ministries of Labour, Economy, Agriculture, Education, Communications and the national competitiveness programme.

163. Within the framework of PNE,[22] in 2014, the Ministry of Labour (MINTRAB) set out to strengthen the municipalities. To that end, one-stop employment windows were established and training for employment and entrepreneurship was provided. (See Annex 5, article 11, tables 10 and 11.)

164. Between the National Income and Employment Survey (ENEI)[23] carried out in 2012 and the survey done in the first half 2013, underemployment fell by 1 per cent (in the case of women, from 41.2 per cent in 2012 to 35.3 per cent in 2013). Analysis of underemployment among women shows a sharper reduction in the unemployed share of the total female workforce. For example, in 2012, that share was 20.6 per cent. By 2013, it had fallen by 3.2 per cent to 17.4 per cent. Between the second survey in 2013 and the first in 2014, that share rose slightly, apparently reflecting the timing of those surveys and seasonal variations in employment. (See annex 5, article 11, table 12.)

165. The more than 5 percentage point reduction in underemployment between 2012 and 2013 may indicate that although the overall size of the informal sector may have shrunk, that does not necessarily imply a reduction in women's participation in that sector. Considering just women in that sector, until the first half of 2013, the majority were in rural areas. By 2014, that figure had fallen to 40.8 per cent. At the same time, the number of women in the urban informal sector increased, a phenomenon probably explained by the migration of both the population and production units to urban centres, and not necessarily by an increase in formal employment opportunities in rural areas.

166. Looking at the ethnic origin aspect of women in the informal sector, the share of Mayan women has been declining steadily, while that of Ladino women increased from 17.2 per cent in 2012 to 38.9 per cent in 2014.

167. Between 2009 and 2012, the Ministry of Labour's Labour Inspectorate (IGT)[24] conducted 2,014 preventive inspections and recorded 20,663 complaints, mainly by women aged 18 to 21 (68.33 per cent) and 22 to 41 (58.97 per cent). Complaints by indigenous women accounted for 82.52 per cent. As regards reconciliation boards, during that same period, most settlements concerned men, in the 18 to 21 age range (65.71 per cent) and the 22 to 41 age range (67.74 per cent). Settlements involving indigenous men accounted for 79.89 per cent. The figures indicated that there is inequality as regards settlements, with women being at a disadvantage. (See annex 5, article 11, tables 13-21.)

168. In coordination with the Technical Institute for Training and Productivity (INTECAP), the Ministry of Labour promoted the education and training for work programme, which benefited 1,718 people (44 per cent women and 56 per cent men). In 2014, it organized six employment shows, three in the metropolitan area and the others in the provinces. Taking part were 270 private companies employing more than 6,681 people. (See annex 5, article 11, table 22.)

169. In 2013, the working women section of MINTRAB's social insurance directorate provided training to 6,862 people (of whom 3,930 were women). In

[22] National Employment Policy.

[23] National Employment and Income Survey.

[24] *Inspección General del Trabajo* [Office of the Inspector General of Labour]

the inbond assembly industry (*maquilas*). 92 workers received training (65 of them women). In 2014, training was given to 1,589 people (926 women).

170. Pursuant to ILO Convention No. 144, MINTRAB established the "Tripartite Commission on International Labour Matters", comprising employers, workers and Government representatives, to discuss compliance with international obligations vis-à-vis labour. It holds monthly meetings to discuss ILO Convention No. 189, on domestic workers. The sectors involved are currently conducting studies with a view to making proposals for addressing that issue.

171. IGT drew up a protocol establishing appropriate mechanisms for detecting and referring cases of forced labour and workplace exploitation, in effort to abolish trafficking in persons. It is also implementing the annual programme of selective and regionally distributed inspection programmes by productive sector to verify compliance with the aforementioned protocol.

172. In 2013, the National Office for Women's Affairs, attached to the Ministry of Labour, provided human rights training to 6,000 women. In 2014, it trained 2,994 women in human rights, the right to equal pay and other rights.

173. The Labour Laws Affairs division of the National Civil Service Office (ONSEC) provided training to all executive branch dependencies regarding labour's rights and duties and related prohibitions, and about the Government funded retirement plan. On its website, it posted the civil service and pensions and retirement fund laws, along with their enabling regulations, in Spanish, k'iche', kaqchikel, mam and q'eqchi', thereby granting women and men equal status with respect to exercising their rights and fulfilling their potential.

174. The Social Security Programme to Protect Domestic Workers (PRECAPI)[25] was approved by Government Decision No. 236-2009 of the Board of Directors of the Guatemalan Social Security Institute (IGSS). That programme considers that domestic work falls within the special IGSS regime, which covers maternity, supervision of children under 5, and accident insurance benefits. The employer contribution is Q.40.00, the worker's contribution Q.20.00, and the State's Q.40.00. A domestic worker may apply for the benefit after contributing to PRECAP for six months. Only 0.8 per cent of the domestic worker population of 10,900 is covered.

175. Through Decision No. 136-012, the Office of the President of the Judiciary and the Supreme Court established the Labour Management Directorate with a view to monitoring proceedings under way in labour and social insurance courts, complying with international conventions and treaties ratified by Guatemala.

176. With Decision No. 31-2011, the Supreme Court and judiciary established the first and second labour and social insurance courts to enable complaints to be filed. The courts are charged with hearing the first complaints of workers who lack legal counselling.

177. In 2011 and 2012, the judiciary provided video recording equipment to labour and social insurance courts and courts of appeal, a change that boosted oral proceedings and cut hearing time in labour cases by half, in addition to lowering costs.

178. Through the courts management system, the judiciary introduced a number of modern procedures in labour cases, such as electronic notification of litigants who wish to be on the mailing list and the scanning of judicial proceeding documents. That resulted in digitalization of 85 per cent of labour cases: one of

[25] In Spanish: *Programa de Prevención para las Trabajadoras Domésticas*.

the best systems in Latin America. Currently, 75 per cent of labour proceeding notifications are electronic.[26]

179. As regards the need to keep up to date with developments in the field, the judiciary is currently running a "Diploma course specializing in international labour organization standards". All labour and social insurance court magistrates and judges in Guatemala took part in the course, which was taught by ILO international experts.

180. Although some progress has been noted, there is still a need to meet the social demands of women's organizations for better coverage, focusing on protecting the health of domestic workers in private homes and workers in the offshore assembly industry (*maquilas*). An effort also needs to be made to promote ratification of ILO Convention No. 189, calling for decent work for that segment of the workforce and to step up actions geared to women having access to decent jobs, thereby reducing the size of the informal sector and underemployment.

181. More effort must also be put into pursuing the national strategy to eradicate child labour and promoting compliance with the Labour Code, with respect to the establishment of day care centres. The State should make it possible for day care centres to be established in neighbourhoods, districts and communities, to allow women to study or work in the quest for their integral development.

Article 12. Measures to achieve equality with men in health care

182. In 2010, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MSPAS), which directs HIV/AIDS prevention launched the "Get yourself tested" campaign, pursuant to Government Decision No. 827-2010. Between 2011 and 2013, the test was administered in 21 departments in Guatemala. (See annex 6, article 12, table 23.)

183. In 2013, 1,843 HIV cases were reported, 588 of which were at an advanced stage, which means there were 53 cases of HIV/advanced HIV per 100,000 inhabitants. Underreporting of cases is thought to be 50 per cent.[27]

184. The country has drawn up a culture sensitive National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Assistance 2011-2015.

185. MSPAS is promoting the Friendly Environments (*Espacios Amigables*) strategy coordinated by the health promotion and education entity, PROEDUSA.[28] It provides comprehensive and differentiated care for adolescents of both sexes, with health promotion and education activities that emphasize health lifestyles and address issues, such as prevention of teenage pregnancy. A system was introduced for monitoring and evaluating care given to adolescents by municipal health services, which treated 1,008,918 young people and adolescents.

186. Government Decision No. 279-2009 approved the enabling regulation for the Law on universal and equitable access to family planning services and its integration in the national reproductive health programme.

[26] Activities report of the Supreme Court 2009-2014

[27] Protocol of San Salvador. The Right to Health

[28] In Spanish: *Promoción y Educación en Salud*.

187. The National Reproductive Health Programme (PNSR) was established via the Responsible Parenthood Component (PyMR), which adopts a social approach to reproductive health for women and men in different age groups and stresses promotion and prevention to help counteract some of the causes and effects of irresponsible parenthood.

188. PNSR objectives include preventing and providing comprehensive care for girl and adolescent pregnancies, especially those involving children under 14 years of age; promoting new models of masculinity with a responsible parenthood approach, to encourage men's involvement in reproductive health; and promoting and implementing the zero hunger pact's "1,000 days window of opportunity".

189. The promotion unit of the health directorate, in coordination with the departmental network for the protection of children and adolescents, provided training for health educators in municipal districts[29] with the highest incidence of teen pregnancy on violence prevention, as a way of reducing maternal mortality.

190. Three regional meetings of PyMR departmental networks were held, with participation of 150 professionals from 21 health districts, who received copies of the *Care and referral roadmap* for cases of pregnancies in girls under 14 years of age.

191. In 2009, the protocol for caring for victims/survivors of sexual violence was reviewed and updated. An awareness campaign and dissemination of the protocol got under way in 2010 and in 2011, an agreement for its implementation was signed between MSPAS, the National Institute of Forensic Scientists (INACIF), the Public Prosecution Service, and the Public Prosecutor's Office for Human Rights Cases (PDH).

192. MSPAS installed the responsible parenthood round table to foster the development of educational forums to provide information, awareness, training and qualifications for getting to know, legitimize and defend human rights, to encourage responsible parenthood and help reduce maternal and neonatal mortality.

193. A number of strategies are in place for boosting responsible parenthood: (a) establishing PyMR networks with participation of people from a range of disciplines and sectors; (b) promoting PyMR schools; (c) running diploma courses on PyMR in a human rights context for members of the networks; and (d) educational events for family and community groups, aimed at reducing the number of teen pregnancies and maternal and neonatal mortality.

194. In 2009, training was provided to 900 youths of both sexes on prenatal care, breastfeeding, and sexual and reproductive health for the prevention of adolescent pregnancy. In 2014, 4,500 young people were sensitized and trained (in the municipalities prioritized by the zero hunger pact) in the presence of pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers, and basic information was provided on hygiene and care for infants.

195. Through Government Decision No. 102-2015, MSPAS officially announced the "2015-2025 national policy on midwives of the four peoples of Guatemala" with a view to improving maternal and neonatal health, based on recognition and acceptance of contributions by knowledge and practices of midwives from the four peoples of Guatemala, as well as on effective ties with Government structures in a context of respect for the cultural rights of indigenous peoples.

[29] Carcha, Chisec, Campur and Cobán.

196. In order to improve maternal and neonatal health based on recognition and contribution of the knowledge and practices of midwives of the four peoples of Guatemala, and on effective and respectful recognition of the cultural rights of indigenous peoples in the Government apparatus, MSPAS officially instituted the "National policy on the midwives of the four peoples of Guatemala, 2015-2025" by GD No. 102-2015.

197. MSPAS and MINEDUC set up the "Prevention through education" bi-ministerial technical panel on health to promote sexual and reproductive health and prevent HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy and sexual violence.

198. To reduce child and female morbidity and mortality as well as chronic child malnutrition, MSPAS presented the Manual on the integrated care strategy for children and women in the community as an operational tool at the community level in the area of preventive health care, health promotion, maternal and child care and under-five child care for use at health posts and centres nationwide.

199. MA No. 538-2013 established the midwife's technical university degree course to ensure universal timely access to quality maternal and neonatal care services that are culturally relevant and geographically accessible for Guatemalan women.

200. MSPAS developed a culturally relevant and sensitive health-care indicators guide to make health-care personnel more sensitive and to contribute to improvement in such services.

201. GD No. 302-2009 adopted the National Policy for the Advancement and Integral Development of Women (PNPDIM) and the equal opportunities plan 2008-2023, both devised by the presidential secretariat for women (SEPREM) to promote integral development for Maya, Garifuna, Xinka and *mestiza* women in all spheres of economic, social, political and cultural life.

202. Under the agreement between SEPREM and the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC), in 2010 the sex education curriculum was adapted to raise awareness in students of both sexes across all educational levels about the risks of pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

203. In 2011 MINEDUC, in coordination with SEPREM, created the ethnically pertinent gender equity unit, attached to DIPLAN.[30] One of the unit's responsibilities is to operationalize two planks of the PNPDIM.

204. In that context, the comprehensive education on sexuality and violence prevention strategy was designed, based on an analysis of statistics on maternal mortality, child and adolescent pregnancy, the extent of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in women and young people, and rates of violence against women and femicide.[31]

205. Since the adoption of the National Youth Policy (PNJ) 2012-2020 by GD No. 173-2012 and the Specific Cabinet of Youth (GEJ) by GD No. 163-2012, the National Youth Council (CONJUVE) has been advancing a strategic response from the highest political level to the main problems affecting Guatemalan youth.

206. In that context, GEJ, under the CONJUVE Technical Secretariat, formulated the National Adolescent and Youth Pregnancy Prevention Plan of Guatemala (PLANEA) 2013-2017, which includes sexual and reproductive rights. For its

[30] MINEDUC Educational Planning Directorate

[31] Comprehensive education on sexuality and violence prevention strategy systematization 2010-2011, Ministry of Education

implementation it signed memoranda of understanding with: (a) MSPAS for access to contraception methods, particularly in rural areas; and (b) OSAR to organize public information campaigns (*¿Estás Lista?* and *¿Estás Listo?* [Are you ready?]), targeting females and males, respectively.

207. In addition, INE, in keeping with its mandate, set up the sectoral coordinating office for health statistics, made up of the institutions that provide public health and social security services; sexual and reproductive health indicators were developed as a result.[32] The cross-cutting coordinating office on gender and population statistics took part in that process.[33]

208. The Congressional Committee on Women assisted in raising awareness among legislators of the importance of the right to culturally sensitive health care. It also organized events where women indigenous leaders and teams of health-care professionals discussed the benefits of family planning, reproductive health and healthy motherhood. In addition, it worked with the national alliance of indigenous women's organizations for reproductive health to make authorities aware of the importance of including urgent sexual and reproductive health needs in national policy.

209. It is important to mention, in relation to gender equitable access to health care, that women enjoy greater coverage than men. Men seek attention at public facilities, but in the case of the Guatemalan Social Security Institute (IGSS), if a man is the insured, his children are entitled to health-care services up to the age of seven, while his wife and children with disabilities are permanently entitled. If the male insured dies, service benefits, including the retirement fund, transfer to the female partner.

210. There is a need to evaluate the national health system, including social security, to ensure its cultural relevance and a gender perspective; implement more measures of a preventive nature; strengthen strategies to eliminate early pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases; and ensure the advance of culturally relevant and gender-aware programmes to eliminate chronic and acute malnutrition.

Article 13. Measures to achieve equality in economic and social life

211. The National Development Plan *K'atun, Nuestra Guatemala 2032* ("K'atun, Our Guatemala 2032") was devised by the National Urban and Rural Development Council (CONADUR), which thus took up its constitutionally recognized duties of organizing and coordinating public administration through the formulation of development policies, budget plans and programmes, and promoting inter-agency, public and private coordination.

212. To those ends, CONADUR formed the formulation and follow-up committee for the national development plan *K'atun, Nuestra Guatemala 2032* and instructed the President's Planning and Programming Secretariat (SEGEPLAN) to provide advisory services and technical support for the process.

213. The *K'atun* adopts "a processes-based, traditional development planning model that harmonizes the sociocultural, economic, land use, environmental and political dimensions with a view to advancing socialization of governance. As a

[32] Number of contraception users per 1,000 women of fertile age, number of antenatal check-ups per assisted pregnancy, and assisted births as a proportion of specialized personnel.

[33] Comprising SEPREM, DEMI, CODISRA and SEGEPLAN.

national development policy, the Plan is a tool to guide and organize public sector activities at all levels and adopts an incremental approach that defines priorities, goals, results and guidelines. At the same time, it offers an opportunity to harmonize development activities in which civil society and international cooperation actors are involved."

214. Given the importance of equitably involving women in rural areas in production processes and access to means of production, the Land Fund (FONTIERRAS) established, in accordance with GD No. 435-2013 and its own internal organic regulations, the coordinating office for policy and strategy, equity, indigenous peoples and the environment, as the entity responsible for overseeing the inclusion of a gender perspective in the Land Fund's programmes and activities as one of the agrarian institution's cross-cutting guiding principles. One of the main outcomes of implementing the Strategic Institutional Agenda 2012-2025 is that in 2014 the Land Fund's gender equity policy was updated.

215. GD No. 196-2009 adopted the National Integral Rural Development Policy (PNDRI). Its objectives are "[t]o ensure a progressive and permanent improvement in the quality of life of people – men and women alike – in rural areas through equitable access to, and sustainable use of, productive resources, means of production, natural goods and environmental services, with a view to achieving sustainable integral human development in the countryside; strengthen the democratic, decentralized and multicultural rule of law in order to overcome racism and ethnic, gender, age and cultural discrimination through active and organized social participation; and promote an economic and socio-environmental model in the rural sector that democratizes this policy".

216. GD No. 372-2014 introduced the agrarian policy in order to create equitable conditions for peasant farmers living at infra-subsistence and subsistence levels to become sustainable surplus producers, in order to gain access to markets, stimulate local economies and enable the preservation of their culture and the rural and indigenous way of life, and in general ensure a decent living standard for inhabitants of rural areas.

217. The human right to housing has been addressed through the Housing Fund (FOPAVI), which was created by Decree No. 9-2012 as a second-tier financial institution whose objective is to grant direct subsidies and facilitate access to credit for families living in poverty or extreme poverty.

218. The Housing Trust (FIV) is an entity set up in 2013 that: (a) disburses subsidies for the purchase of lots with utility connections that have benefited 2,358 families, in which some 60 per cent (1,415 cases) are female-headed households and around 40 per cent (943 cases) are male-headed; (b) in 2013 and 2014, awarded 20,711 subsidies nationwide for building or buying homes, of which 12,427 were to women heads of household (60 per cent) and 8,284 were to male household heads (40 per cent).

219. The Zero Hunger Pact was established in the 2012-2015 period as a strategy for alleviating poverty and extreme poverty. The Pact targets four strategic outcomes: (a) to reduce chronic malnutrition in children under five years by 10 per cent between 2012 and 2015, which would be the basis for achieving a 24 per cent reduction over the next 10 years; (b) to lower maternal and neonatal mortality; (c) to increase families' protein and calorie intake; and (d) to boost family income.

220. Zero Hunger Pact plan was devised in order to operationalize the Pact. The plan contains direct and indirect components that set out roles to be played by

the institutions involved in the Pact. The first stage of the plan gives priority to municipalities most affected by chronic and acute malnutrition before gradually covering all the country's municipalities.

221. To ensure that the plan functions as intended and is properly coordinated and institutionalized, as a matter of national urgency the Guatemalan Congress passed Decree No. 1-2012, amending the Law on the Executive Branch and establishing the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES). It works with other Government agencies to accomplish strategic outcomes 1, 3 and 4 mentioned in the paragraph above, through implementation of social programmes.

222. The coverage of policies that facilitate access for male- and female-headed households to affordable options for decent housing that they own needs to be expanded, as does the coverage of housing subsidy programmes. In addition, the strategy for addressing poverty and extreme poverty with an emphasis on eliminating chronic and acute under-nourishment and malnutrition needs to be strengthened.

Article 14. Measures to ensure application of the Convention to women in rural areas

223. In 2013 MSPAS adopted the national policy on water and sewerage by GD No. 418-2013, to help improve living standards and the individual and collective well-being of the country's inhabitants.

224. In 2014, through PEC,[34] MSPAS signed 385 agreements on provision of basic health services to the same number of jurisdictions, benefiting a total of 4,652,085 people, of whom 1,767,069 belonged to the maternal and child population and 1,645,014 were women of fertile age (between 10 and 54 years).

225. Basic health services were provided in 178 municipalities situated in 24 health districts, 125 of which were in the "priority municipality" category. In all, there were 5,441,253 interventions under the subprogrammes "Chronic malnutrition prevention through assistance delivered via outreach services" and "Maternal and neonatal mortality prevention". Beneficiaries belonged to various ethnic groups, all living in poverty in rural areas.

226. With regard to the Committee's recommendation to "adopt and implement effective measures, including through the revision of legislation criminalizing abortion, to prevent unsafe abortions and their impact on women's health and maternal mortality", in spite of the fact that the standards remain in force in Guatemala, an important achievement is that there is a protocol in place for providing therapeutic abortions in order to protect the life and health of the woman concerned. In the case of induced or coercive abortion, the national health system has the obligation to provide care to any women who so requests. There is also the care procedure for pregnant girls and teenagers (*ruta de atención a niñas y adolescentes embarazadas*), the care protocol for surviving victims of sexual violence, the national reproductive health programme, the integrated care strategy for children and women in the community and a policy on coordinated work with midwives in Guatemala, among other relevant actions.

227. From 2009 to 2014, MSPAS engaged in awareness-raising efforts on CEDAW and the MDGs with personnel at the central level in 29 health districts and the hospital system nationwide in order to spread information, knowledge and training about the commitments adopted by Guatemala.

[34] Coverage Extension Programme (*Programa de Extensión de Cobertura*).

228. FONTIERRAS and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) signed an inter-agency agreement, approved by MA No. 67-2012, to create the special programme "*Triángulo de la dignidad*" (Triangle of dignity) and pave the way for its implementation in support of small-scale producers and beneficiaries of FONTIERRAS that produce basic grains, thereby helping to boost national output and market supply. Between 2012 and 2014, the programme provided credit to 29,249 women (35 per cent of total beneficiaries) and 54,298 men (65 per cent). The amount of investment for women came to Q.87,747,000.00 across 292 municipalities in all 22 departments of the Republic of Guatemala.

229. FONTIERRAS operates in two ways through the special land lease programme: (a) land lease loans: between 2004 and 2014 it issued 530,151 loans, which represented an investment of Q.1,229,227,780.00; the fact that 55 per cent of loan recipients under the programme were women has led it to be regarded as an inclusive, gender equitable initiative; (b) land lease subsidies. (See annex 7, article 14, table 24.)

230. The State land regularization programme issued 23,395 title deeds between 2000 and 2014, benefiting 66,295 families. Of the persons who benefited from the legal certification of land ownership enabled by the programme, 29,269 (48 per cent) were women and 31,460 (52 per cent) were men. This was achieved through the application of accessible land price tables, reducing the value of the land awarded and, therefore, lowering corresponding tax payments. (See annex 7, article 14, table 25.)

231. As regards access to the purchase of land and productive development, FONTIERRAS benefited a total of six organized groups, comprising 1,721 individuals, of whom 840 were men (48.81 per cent) and 881 (51.19 per cent) were women.

232. The six groups dealt with in 2014 were indigenous peoples. Of those, five belonged to the Q'eqchi' linguistic community with a number of *ladino* members, and one group to the Kaqchikel linguistic community with *ladino* members.

233. The number of men who benefited from loans and subsidies was 325 (90.28 per cent); the number of women was 35 (9.72 per cent).

234. The investment in loans for the purchase of six farms was Q.20,095,455.72 (66 per cent of the 2014 budget). The investment in subsidies came to Q.28,818,748.24 (84 per cent of the 2014 budget); that total is divided into capital subsidy for the purchase of the farms, in the amount of Q.13,611,263.35 and working capital subsidy for implementation and operation of productive projects, in the amount of Q.15,207,484.89.

235. The total investment in loans and subsidies for the 360 families was Q.48,914,203.96.

236. The total number of hectares purchased in 2014 to benefit 360 families was 1,406.04, for an average of 3.91 hectares the family.

237. FONTIERRAS implemented a series of projects for women on the farms bought by the agency, in the amount of Q.8,369,967.09. (See annex 7, article 14, table 26.)

238. In 2014, the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) signed an inter-agency cooperation agreement with the Municipality of Santa Catarina Pinula to establish an action and training framework for the protection,

conservation, management, catchment and use of natural resources, given that such measures are fundamental in any socio-economic and sustainable development process in which women play a preponderant role.

239. Between 2012 and 2014, MARN provided training to 21,584 people, including women's organizations, on environmental issues, such as solid waste management, importance of water resources, reforestation and climate change. The training was imparted with a gender and multicultural perspective with the aim of including those aspects in natural resource protection and building pollution free environments. As a result of this activity, 2,632 women were certified as "environmental educators", trained in environmental education curricular platforms.

240. MARN has formed departmental panels on climate change to draw up culturally pertinent and gender equitable adaptation and mitigation plans from the grass roots up, giving priority to the most vulnerable groups, including women.

241. In 2014, MAGA, through the community food production support directorate, benefited 7,000 women in 47 municipalities targeted by the Specific Cabinet of Women (GEM) by giving them a variety of legume species to plant vegetable gardens for their own consumption in order to ensure the availability of healthy food and boost their food production capacities.

242. To stimulate productivity and job creation, MAGA implemented the programme "*Desarrollo económico desde lo rural*" (rural-based economic development), the purpose of which is to enhance the participation of rural and indigenous populations, particularly women, in the national economy through productive projects, access to loans, technical assistance and other measures.

243. MAGA carries out activities to encourage women to become actively involved in those projects, notable instances of which are: *Sistema casa hogar saludable* (Healthy household system), which provided training to 21,947 rural women in implementing practices for improving their systems. It also provided technical advisory services to 66,739 women from the four peoples; delivered inputs to 729 women from the four peoples; provided training to 26,344 male and female producers in rural areas on ways to improve own-consumption family production systems, in which 16,809 of the participants were women and 9,535 were men; provided technical assistance to 108,007 male and female producers in rural areas on ways to improve own-consumption food production systems, in which 52,325 of the participants were women and 55,682 were men; delivered inputs to 7,655 male and female producers in rural areas for the purpose of improving their own-consumption food production systems, 97 of the participants in which were women and 7,558 men.

244. MAGA provides goods and services to more than 100,000 families organized at rural development education centres in order to boost their productive capacities.

245. The *Incentivos económicos para la producción* (Economic incentives for production) budget activity established in 2014 benefited 613 women at five organizations with non-refundable disbursements in the amount of Q.2,655,375.14.

246. A consultation workshop was held with representatives of CODEDES to learn about progress in the area of women's rights,[35] including indigenous and rural women. They mentioned the following as the main accomplishments and

[35] Departmental development councils

obstacles: Alta Verapaz: in 2012 the programme "*El Reto*" prioritized so-called red zones; school visits were made to raise awareness among parents and students; a European Union grant to build a shelter for women violence victims,[36] a day-care centre, a women's training centre, a women's integral development and advancement centre; and a donation from the judicial branch (JB) to set up a femicide court in the Department.

247. Baja Verapaz received financial assistance from the European Union through GIZ for prevention of violence against women; El Progreso held a diploma course for legal outreach workers from eight municipalities; in Sacatepéquez, Jalapa and Santa Rosa Q3 million was approved to build a centre for holistic support of women survivors of violence; in Jalapa, a comprehensive women's education centre was built; in Quetzaltenango, two women's training centres were set up; in El Quiché a maternity home was built.

248. Upon consultation, OMM representatives cited the following as their main achievements:[37] San Miguel Tucurú, Alta Verapaz, OMM female management teams have been formed and accredited and the OMM departmental network has been set up; in Esquipulas, Chiquimula, community based women's networks have been set up for prevention of violence against women and they are coordinating the women entrepreneurs project with UN-Women; in Camotán, Chiquimula, the municipal policy on participation and integral development for Camoteca Women is under preparation; in Panzós, Alta Verapaz, a radio soap opera was produced that focuses on violence against women; in San José Pinula, Guatemala, health services and a psychology clinic were set up for women violence victims.

249. CODEDES representatives agreed not to politicize decisions, so that the appointment of COCODES[38] and COMUDES[39] personnel is not a discretionary decision of mayors, but a democratic process; there is need to strengthen linkage, coordination and follow-up on departmental and local offices with CODEDES, OMMs and departmental government. The budget needs to be increased to advance women's human rights, to carry out self-sustaining social, productive, and infrastructure projects that benefit women and to implement the National Integral Rural Development Policy (PNDRI).

250. SEPREM needs to be strengthened in order to improve communication with, and advisory services to, CODEDES.

Articles 15. Equality of women with men before the law

251. Under the Constitution of Guatemala, all human beings are equal in dignity and rights; men and women, regardless of their civil status, have equal opportunities and responsibilities, and no one may be subjected to servitude or any condition that undermines his or her dignity. The international legal framework ratified by Guatemala as well its domestic law recognize women's human rights.

252. In that framework, FONTIERRAS determined that in the period between 2012 and 2025 women may be beneficiaries in the articles of incorporation of legal persons, as envisaged at article 3 (b) and (c).[40] For its part, article 20 provides.[41]

[36] European Union

[37] Municipal Women's Offices (OMM)

[38] Community Development Council

[39] Municipal Development Council

[40] Decree No. 24-99, Land Fund Law

[41] Bis

"Guatemalan men and women peasant farmers, shall be beneficiaries, whether considered individually or having organized to gain access to land and agricultural/livestock, forestry, and hydro-biological production. In the framework of its projects it shall stimulate the participation of women peasant farmers both individually and collectively organized." Accordingly, it has facilitated access to land through its programmes "Access to land purchases and productive development" and "Land regularization". The names of both spouses shall appear on the title deed.

253. Following its institutional reorganization under GD No. 435-2013 and the application of the Institutional strategic agenda 2012-2025, FONTIERRAS updated the gender equity policy in its land lease and access to land purchase and productive development programmes.

254. The Ministry of Labour and Youth (MINTRAB) implements the programme on labour market insertion for persons with special capacities. Enforcement of the legal framework needs to be strengthened to encourage the full exercise of women's rights, making it necessary to give media exposure to programmes and affirmative action measures that promote access for women to means of production.

Article 16. Measures to eliminate discrimination against women in marriage and the family

255. To ensure equality in all its dimensions, the legal framework enacted by the Congress of the Republic in 2010 reforms the Civil Code, which contained provisions approved by heads of State in past decades. The reforms included article 222, which concerns the presumption of paternity, according to which the children of parents who have cohabited are considered their offspring; the foregoing applies to those born within 120 days after the de facto commencement of their relations and 300 days after cohabitation ceases. The DNA[42] test is accepted as irrefutable proof, which ensures the right to an identity derived from the mother and father.[43]

256. Article 89 (3) of Decree Law No. 106 of the Head of Government (Civil Code) was repealed. That provision established that a woman could not marry until 300 days had passed following the dissolution of her previous marriage or de facto union or the annulment of the marriage, unless she gave birth during that time or one of the spouses was materially separated from the other or absent for the above-mentioned period. If the marriage was annulled owing to the husband's impotence, the woman need not wait to remarry.

257. Article 6 of Decree No. 27-2010 abolished article 229 of Decree No. 17-73 of the Congress of the Republic (Criminal Code), according to which a widow or divorced woman was unable to remarry for a period of time set forth in the Civil Code. No such provision applied to the widower or divorced man, which constituted discrimination against women.

258. The State of Guatemala is pleased to report that the Congress of the Republic enacted, as a matter of urgency, Decree No. 8-2015, which provides that the minimum marriageable age for men and women is 18, or 16 in special

[42] Deoxyribonucleic acid

[43] CRC, article 7 (1): "The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents".

cases with cause and the permission of a competent judge. It is worth underscoring that acceptance of de facto unions between minors will not be allowed. Publication in the *Official Gazette* pending.